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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORTS

for the Year 1951

of the Medical Officer of Health
W. H. BUTCHER, V.R.D., M.A.,
D.M., D.P.H., BARRISTER - AT - LAW,
SURGEON COMMANDER R.N.V.R.
and of the Sanitary Inspector
J. J. PATTISON, M.R. SAN. I.,
M.S.I.A., CERT. S.I.B.





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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
SKELTON AND BROTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my fifth Annual Report for 1951, the contents and arrangement of which are in accordance with Ministry of Health's Circular 42/51.

I should commence by recounting how excellently the health of the District has been maintained during the year; and indeed it has, if we confine ourselves to the contents of Table IV—Notifiable Diseases. To-day scarlet fever is a negligible disease, at least in Britain; diphtheria does not figure at all, nor need it figure again except as a rare disease, provided seventy-five per cent or more of the children are allowed by their parents to be protected by the simple procedure of immunization; whooping cough and measles still appear and are responsible, particularly the former, for a certain amount of permanent damage and consequent disablement to some individuals. Moreover your death-rate is satisfactory: your infant mortality rate is falling and the children in your schools are mainly healthy on leaving. But, if I take a wider conception of disease, then the position is not so good as far as I can judge by what I myself observe or read, for as regards a large amount of ill-health I have no statistics, but must glean what I know where and how I can. The surgeries of the family doctors appear full: the pharmaceutical chemists are busy: in addition to the gallons of medicine drunk under the National Health Service a roaring trade is done in proprietary preparations; so there would appear to be much ill-health among us and it may well be asked of what disorders is it composed? Here there is some interesting evidence afforded by an enquiry conducted by Prof. D. M. Dunlop (British Medical Journal, 9th February, 1952) and two colleagues from the Department of Therapeutics of the University of Edinburgh in which over 17,000 prescriptions distributed among English practices of different types and in different parts were analysed. No less than 15 per cent of all drugs prescribed was for the purpose of soothing the nerves and inducing sleep. The conclusion reached by these investigators is that except for the minor infections, such as coughs, colds, etc., 55 per cent of the drugs prescribed were for the treatment of disorders not entirely physical, or even predominantly physical, but containing a large nervous or emotional element—disorders affecting body and mind, or predominantly mind or even mind alone. Such disorders by themselves may or may not shorten life, but they prevent the individual getting the full zest out of life and diminish his or her efficiency in the community. That such disorders have been increasing during the last thirty years or more is the impression of several observers. Since the individual is the product of his environment in the widest sense of the term, it is a self-evident truth that the causes of these disorders, as in the case of germ-caused diseases such as scarlet fever or enteric, must be sought in the environment, in the conditions under which the individual lives—I do not restrict the meaning of conditions to physical ones only—and in his ways of living, his habits and his reaction to events.

In Appendix A I reproduce my report to the Public Health Committee of February, 1952, on Water Supplies. My reasons for anticipating the Annual Report for 1952 are first the urgency of the matter of your water supplies and second the fact that I had collected the material for the report during the years 1949, 1950 and 1951. I feel that the Local Sanitary Authority should consider whether the time has not arrived when it should cease to countenance any more conversions until more water is available from some source or another. I am aware that to advise such a deliberation is a most serious step, but I consider that the position is a serious one too.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their warm encouragement throughout the year, Mr. F. Wilkinson and Mr. F. Stringer, for their co-operation and Mr. J. Pattison whose report follows mine, for his valuable help on all occasions. My administrative work has been made less onerous by the willing labour of Miss M. Imeson and Miss J. Waite.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. BUTCHER,

Medical Officer of Health.

BROTTON,

31st May, 1952.

TABLE 1

Public Health Officers

Whole Time Officers	Guisborough Urban District	Skelton & Brotton Urban District	Loftus Urban District
Medical Officer of Health also District Medical Officer No. 4 Area N.R.C.C.	Dr. W. H. Butcher		
Sanitary Inspectors	Mr. J. A. Thompson*	Mr. J. Pattison	Mr. E. Hollis*
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	Mr. E. Ward		

*Also Surveyor of the district concerned

SECTION I

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Population

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the District in the mid-year 1951 is 12,940, as compared to an estimate of the population in the mid-year 1950 of 13,000.

General Statistics

I am indebted to the Financial Officer of the Council for the following figures :—

1. Area of the District in acres	....	....	15,309
2. No. of inhabited houses according to the rate books			3,905
3. Rateable Value	....	....	£47,785
4. Sum represented by a penny rate		....	£187

Social Conditions

The District consists of an industrial belt comprising Skelton, New Skelton, North Skelton, Brotton and parts of Carlin How with a “Y” shaped prolongation to the southwards composed of Skelton Green, Boosbeck, Margrove Park, Charltons and Lingdale. These are situated amidst agricultural lands studded with farms ascending with swelling slopes to the moors which attain a height of nearly 1,000 feet. On the border of these, beyond the wooded valley of the Hagg Beck, is the community of Moorsholm. To the North the District is bounded by Huntcliff attaining a height of 300 feet above the sea in almost sheer descent.

Ironstone mining remains the general, but a decreasing, industry in the District itself. The ironstone mines are in number five, or six if Longacre be considered a separate mine. Factories for the light industries are coming into operation ; apart, however, from keyworkers they employ at present mostly female labour. The Skinninggrove Iron and Steel Works situated just outside the District employ from 600 to 700 of those resident in the District. During 1951 the industries have maintained full employment, a factor of great importance to the health both physical and mental of the population.

TABLE 2
Vital Statistics

		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Live Births	....	121	106	227
Legitimate	....	114	100	214
Illegitimate	....	7	6	13
<hr/>				
Still Births	....	2	3	5
Legitimate	....	2	3	5
Illegitimate	....	—	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

		MALE	FEMALE
Total	....	6	3
Legitimate	....	5	3
Illegitimate	....	1	—

The number of births registered being 227 gives a birth-rate of 17 per 1,000 of the population ; corrected for comparability the birth-rate is 18 compared to 15.5 for England and Wales. Nine infants under the age of one year died giving an infant mortality rate of 40 per thousand births compared to the rate for England and Wales of 29.6.

TABLE 3

Analysis of Infantile Mortality

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks.	2-3 wks.	3-4 wks.	Total under 4 wks.	1-3 mths.	3-6 mths.	6-9 mths.	9-12 mths.	Total deaths under 1 year
Prematurity										
Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Gastro-Enteritis	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital										
Hydrocephalus	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Sub-Arachnoid										
Haemorrhage	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia due to inhalation of food	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
TOTALS	2	1	—	1	4	—	1	3	1	9

TABLE 4—Vital Statistics

CAUSES OF DEATH

			MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	1
Meningo-coccal infections	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—

TABLE 4—Vital Statistics—*continued*

CAUSES OF DEATH

			MALE	FEMALE
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	....		4	3
Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus			1	1
Malignant neoplasm of breast	....		—	—
Malignant neoplasm of uterus	....		—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms			8	5
Leukaemia	....	....	—	—
Diabetes	....	....	—	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	....		11	9
Coronary disease, angina	....	....	10	7
Hypertension with heart disease	....		—	1
Other heart disease	....	....	15	22
Other circulatory diseases	....	....	3	4
Influenza	....	....	3	2
Pneumonia	....	....	4	—
Bronchitis	....	....	—	—
Other diseases of respiratory system	....		—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	....		—	—
Gastro-enteritis and diarrhoea	....		—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	....	....	—	7
Hyperplasia of prostate	....	....	4	—
Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion	....		—	—
Congenital malformations	....	....	1	—
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	....		9	13
Motor vehicle accidents	....	....	—	1
All other accidents	....	....	4	1
Suicide	....	....	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	....		—	—
ALL CAUSES	....	....	78	81

The deaths are classified under thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death 1948. 159 deaths of residents gave a death-rate of 12.1 per thousand of population ; allowing for different age and sex distribution the comparable death-rate is 12.8 compared to 12.5 for England and Wales. Table 4 shows clearly what killed people in Skelton and Brotton in 1951. The infantile mortality remains above that for England and Wales and is higher still than that for the 148 Smaller Towns which is 27.6.

TABLE 5
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1951
(other than Tuberculosis)

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2	3	4	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65—
Scarlet Fever	12	—	—	—	—	2	3	4	2	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	188	6	23	21	30	18	86	4	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	35	—	8	4	7	11	5	—	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION II

Infectious Diseases

Table 5 shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases except tuberculosis.

Diphtheria

No case was notified. Immunization was available to children either at the hands of the family doctor, or at the School Clinic of the North Riding of Yorkshire Education Authority at Carlin How, or at the Infant Welfare Centres of the Local Health Authority at Brotton, Skelton and Lingdale, while I was able to arrange sessions at the various schools where the family doctors gave reinforcing doses to children who had been immunized earlier in life.

TABLE 6
Immunization against Diphtheria

<i>Age Groups</i>			
0 to 4 years	....	....	105
5 to 14 years	....	....	6
Reinforcing doses		....	170

Smallpox

Twenty-six immunizations were performed during the year, all by the family doctors. This important preventive measure appears now almost disregarded.

Tuberculosis

Four new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year and two of non-respiratory tuberculosis. The rehousing of infectious consumptives has received the favourable consideration of the Local Sanitary Authority wherever this measure was necessary.

TABLE 7
Tuberculosis

AGE GROUPS		RESPIRATORY FORM		NON-RESPIRATORY FORM	
Years		Male	Female	Male	Female
0 to 4	....	—	—	—	—
5 to 9	....	—	1	—	1
10 to 14	....	—	—	—	—
15 to 19	....	—	—	—	1
20 to 24	....	—	—	—	—
25 to 34	....	—	—	—	—
40 to 45	....	1	2	—	—
56 to 65	....	—	—	—	—

SECTION III—Water Supplies

TABLE 8

Bacteriological Results of the Charltons' Water

No.	Date 1951	No. of colonies developing on Agar per ml. at 37° C. in 2 days	Presumptive Coliform Reaction from 100 ml.	Bact. Coli Type 1 from 100 ml.
1	13th February	40	present	present
2	27th February	10	present	absent
3	5th March	10	present	absent
4	13th March	absent	absent	absent
5	17th September	20	present	present

TABLE 9

The Charltons' Water—Chemical Results in parts per million

Sample 4 (13/3/51)

Turbidity (silica scale)	less than 3	Nitrate nitrogen	....	0.0
Colour (Hazen)	.... Nil	Nitrite nitrogen	....	less than 0.01
Reaction pH	.... 6.7	Ammoniacal nitrogen	....	0.023
Total solids dried at 180° C.	210	Albuminoid nitrogen	....	0.000
Free carbon dioxide	.... 33	Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C.	....	0.05
Chlorine in chlorides	.... 18	Metals	....	absent
Alkalinity as calcium carbonate	115	Residual chlorine	....	absent
Hardness : total	.... 150			
temporary	.... 115			

TABLE 10

Bacteriological Results of the Treated Waters Cleveland Water Co.

No.	Date 1951	No. of colonies developing on Agar per ml. at 37° C. in 2 days	Presumptive Coliform Reaction from 100 ml.	Bact. Coli Type 1 from 100 ml.
1	23rd January	730	absent	absent
2	13th February	110	absent	absent
3	13th March <i>a</i>	1	absent	absent
4	13th March <i>b</i>	absent	absent	absent
5	13th March <i>c</i>	absent	absent	absent
6	14th August	absent	absent	absent
7	29th October	10	absent	absent
8	6th November	20	absent	absent

a. Upleatham Reservoir.

b. Lockwood Beck Reservoir.

c. Skelton Reservoir.

TABLE 11

**Chemical Results in parts per million
Cleveland Water Co.**

No. of Sample	....	....	No. 3	No. 4	No. 5
Date of Sample	....	....	3.3.51	13.3.51	13.3.51
Reaction pH	....	....	6.7	6.8	6.6
Total Solids	....	....	100	100	100
Chlorine in Chlorides	....	....	18	18	18
Hardness : Permanent	....	....	3.5	4.1	4.4 (degrees)
Temporary	....	....	0.3	0.3	0.3 (degrees)
Nitrogen as Nitrates	....	....	0.71	0.75	0.64
Free Ammonia	....	....	0.26	0.15	0.26
Albuminoid Ammonia	....	....	0.084	0.073	0.065
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs at 27° C.	....	....	1.5	0.8	1.3

TABLE 12

Miscellaneous Waters—Bacteriological Results

Source	Date 1951	No. of colonies developing on Agar per ml. at 37° C. in 2 days	Presumptive Coliform Reaction from 100 ml.	Bact. Coli Type 1 from 100 ml.
Low Gerrick Farm	17th September	40	present	present
Spring Head on Gerrick Howe	2nd October	420	present	present
Conduit 50 yards west of turn- pike at Gerrick	2nd October	uncountable	present	absent

Tables 10 and 11 show the satisfactory quality of the treated water delivered by the Cleveland Water Company. The results are an agreeable contrast to those in Tables 8 and 12. I have no doubt in my mind that the Charltons Supply, in common with other supplies of which I have knowledge, during periods of low rainfall is of satisfactory quality, but at other times it is not of the quality suitable for drinking and domestic purposes according to present public health standards. I sincerely trust that the Cleveland Water Company will be able to extend their mains to the Charltons at an early date.

Table 12 shows the quality of the supply to the Gerrick farms except Far Gerrick. I have examined this supply in some detail to show what kind of water these milk producers use, but there are other farms whose supplies are obviously just as unsatisfactory.

SECTION IV

Inspection and Supervision of Food

At the Skelton Institute I gave a filmstrip talk on Clean Food. The audience was composed of 15 persons. Mr. J. Pattison kindly helped me with the projector and the arrangements. That meagre response was obtained notwithstanding that I had circularised every food retailer in the district. It is unlikely, therefore, that more food will be prepared and sold under more cleanly conditions as a result of further visual or verbal exhortations.

In pleasing contrast to that experience was my filmstrip talk that I gave at Stanghow County Modern School to the staff of the School Meals Service in my three Districts ; the attendance was practically one hundred per cent. I thank Miss J. Scott the School Meals Organiser who made the talk possible.

Byelaws

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 for securing the observance of Sanitary and Cleanly Practices and Conditions in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the open air.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

No outbreaks of food poisoning were notified to me.

SECTION V—Housing and

SECTION VI—Sanitary Circumstances of the District

I shall discuss these at the same time for they are indissolubly bound together by the absence of a sufficient water supply. I would draw your attention to Mr. Pattison's statement on page 12 ; I emphasize each word of it. Until more water is available pail closets will perforce remain and standpipes will survive and many housing improvements will remain undone. It is difficult to assess the full extent of the evil of such noxious contraptions as pail closets ; I can maintain truthfully, however that I have never seen for many a long year so many flies as I see in Old Brotton on a summer's day ; your infant mortality rate, once considered the most sensitive index of the sanitary condition of a District, has remained for several years above that of my other two Districts and much above that of the country as a whole. It is difficult to correlate this unduly high infant mortality rate with the pail closets ; the two factors exist ; the latter may have an influence on the former although how direct, or indirect, I cannot prove. The sooner we obtain more water from some source or another and so get rid of the pail closets the sooner we will prove their influence, if any, on the infant mortality rate. Infant mortality rate or no infant mortality rate, pail closets and standpipes are the causes of much indefinite physical ill-health and emotional disturbance.

SKELTON & BROTTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNCIL OFFICES,

SKELTON-IN-CLEVELAND.

4th April, 1952.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Skelton & Brotton Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my third Annual Report to the Council, for the year 1951.

I express my thanks to the members of the Council for their help and courtesy during the year and I am indebted to my colleagues, especially to Dr. Butcher, for the support and co-operation given to me at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. J. PATTISON,

Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Generally

During 1951, as in 1950 and 1949, most of my time was spent on housing repair work. Although much work was completed, many houses still need repair, a large number of dry closets still require conversion to water-closets and water supplies need great improvement. These are all major defects needing much time to remedy.

Water Supply

Apart from the risk of water-borne diseases during periods of drought, necessary improvements to many dwellinghouses are held up by the lack of adequate water supplies to the whole of the District. It is vital that the Scaling Reservoir Scheme be commenced and completed with the least possible delay.

In twenty-four dwelling-houses water taps and sinks were provided in sculleries in place of standpipes or other supplies. The position in regard to dwelling-houses can be summarised as follows :—

TABLE 13

1. Number of houses supplied by standpipes	....	440
2. Number of houses supplied by wells and springs	....	80
3. Number of houses having direct supply	....	3380
		<hr/>
TOTAL	....	3900
		<hr/>

Sewerage and Drainage

With the exception of outlying houses and farms the district is served by public sewers discharging to the sea. A sewage disposal works owned by the council receives the sewage from the village of Moorsholm.

Some lengths of sewer, damaged by mining subsidence, need relaying. Sewers laid and repaired during 1951 were :—

Brotton Housing Estates, 136 yards 12 inch, 86 yards 9 inch and 160 yards 6 inch sewers. In addition, 40 yards 12 inch sewers were renewed.

Most houses in the area have drains connected to the public sewers. Ninety-nine additional connections were made to the sewers for closet conversions ; 139 visits were made for the purpose of testing 142 drains totalling 407 yards of 4 inch pipe. In addition 15 gullies, 17 chambers and 2 intercepting traps were installed.

Closet Accommodation

In regard to water-closets, the water carriage system is not general in the urban area, nearly half of the sanitary accommodation consists of pan closets ; 127 of these closets were converted to water closets during the year, 95 of them being aided by grants from the Council.

Although the conversion of all dry closets in the area to water-closets is essential, no real progress can be made until there exists an adequate supply of water to all parts of the district.

Three water-closets were added to existing premises and, including those associated with new houses, the number and description of sanitary conveniences at the end of the year was :—

TABLE 14

Water-closets	....	....	....	....	2022
Pan closets	....	....	....	....	1910
Middens	....	....	....	....	4
					<hr/>
TOTAL	....	....	....	....	3936
					<hr/>

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The system of refuse collection and disposal remained the same as outlined in the 1949 report, except that salvage collections and sales were resumed during the year. Very few complaints were received regarding irregular collections.

The time lost during the year in sickness was high, amounting to 1,059 man/hours. For the financial year ended 31st March, 1952, the cost of the service totalled £3,975. Other items relating to the department were :—

Total mileage of vehicles	....	....	....	12,007
Loads of refuse collected and tipped	....	....	....	3,713
Approximate weight of refuse	....	....	....	7,426 tons
Trade refuse collected—loads	....	....	....	3
bins	....	....	....	459
Visits of inspection to tips, etc.	....	....	....	215
Paper and cardboard sold	11 tons 7 cwts.	(£192/2/0d.)		
Metals sold	3 tons 9 cwts. 3 qr.	(£12/5/9d.)		
Textiles sold	7 cwts. 1 qr.	(£8/14/9d.)		

Factories

Seventy visits were made to factories and two intimatatory notices were necessary relating to lack of cleanliness and the non-provision of a thermometer.

TABLE 15
1. Inspections

Premises	No. on register	No. of Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1 to 6 are enforced	26	35	2	—
2. Factories in which Section 7 is enforced	29	39	—	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced	2	2	—	—
TOTALS	57	76	2	—

2. Cases where defects were found

	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Lack of cleanliness	2	2	—	1
Other offences	1	1	—	1
TOTALS	3	3	—	2

Workplaces

Eleven visits were paid to workplaces (being places other than factories where persons are employed except in domestic service). No defect was found.

Schools

Six visits were made to schools. It is with pleasure that I can report the conversion of the dry closets to water-closets at the Margrove Park School.

Shops

Eighty-six visits to shops, dealing in all classes of goods, resulted in five defects being found which were remedied during the year.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations

There is no Common Lodging House, House Let in Lodgings, or Offensive Trade in the District.

Two licences were issued by the Council for Moveable Dwellings.

The Knacker's Yard at Charltons was again licensed. Five visits were made.

There are eight privately owned slaughterhouses on the register and seventeen visits were made. The majority of these are not ideal but are used solely for the slaughter of "cottagers' pigs."

Swimming Baths and Pools

In the district there are no (a) public or (b) privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public.

Eradication of Bed Bugs, Cleansing, etc.

Not one house was found to be verminous. One Council house was found to be invaded by minute “red spiders” but these were cleared up by using “Gammexane.”

Rodent Control

The rodent operative, appointed jointly by the Loftus and the Skelton and Brotton Urban District Councils, continued his duties in the two areas. By the end of the year the Council's sewers and refuse tips had been treated twice, while two business premises were treated at the request of the owners. Two allotments were also treated. The bodies of 152 rats and two mice were found but these represent, of course, only a small percentage of the actual number killed. The poisons used so far have been zinc phosphide, arsenious oxide and red squill. The technique recommended by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries was employed.

Housing

Only six new houses were erected during the year, all by the Council.

Most of my time for the twelve months was again spent on housing repair work, no fewer than 1,038 houses being visited in connection with repairs needed under the Housing or Public Health Acts, necessitating a total of 1,531 visits. Lingdale, Boosbeck and Margrove Park were the areas in which I tried to concentrate, but demands were made by other parts of the district, making it impossible to work systematically. A great deal of work has been done but much more remains to be commenced. It would seem that the labour force available is insufficient to cope with the outstanding repairs within a reasonable time.

TABLE 16
Housing Appendix—Statistics

New houses erected in 1951

(a) By Private Owners	....	....	....	....	0
(b) By the Council	....	....	....	....	6
1. <i>Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year</i>					
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	....	....			1038
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	....		....		1531
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	....		....		0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	....		....		0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	....				0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	....	....	....		0

Table 16—Housing Appendix—Statistics—continued

2.	<i>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices</i>			
(1)	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers			92
3.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year</i>			
A.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.			
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	....	....	40
(2)	Number of dwelling-houess rendered fit after service of formal notices			
(a)	By Owners	....	....	29
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	....	....	1
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts			
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	....	....	3
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices			
(a)	By owners	....	....	3
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	....	....	0
C.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936			
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	....	....	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	....	....	0
D.	Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936			
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	....	....	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	....	....	0
4.	<i>Housing Act, 1936, Part 4, Overcrowding</i>			
(1)	(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	....		73
	(b) Number of families dwelling therein	....		86
	(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	....		552
(2)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	....		0
(3)	(a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	....		3
	(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases	....		12
(4)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	....	....	Nil
(5)	Of the total number of houses surveyed and recorded since overcrowding provisions were introduced in the Housing Acts, <i>i.e.</i> 3,144, 73 were overcrowded at the end of the year, giving a percentage of 2.32.			

TABLE 17
Nuisances

Total number of inspections made for nuisances only	....	1221
Nuisances found	....	383
Nuisances in hand, end of previous year	....	150
Total needing abatement	....	533
Abated during the year	....	350
Outstanding at end of year	....	183
Notices served, informal	383	Complied with 347
Notices served, statutory	3	Complied with 3
Number of summonses or other legal proceedings	....	0

It was not found necessary to institute proceedings regarding the abatement of nuisances but, in the case of one dwelling-house, the owner did not comply with a statutory Housing Act Notice. The Council carried out the work in default at a cost of £127/10/0d. which is being recovered from the owner.

FOOD

Milk

At the end of the year, there were 9 dairies and 10 retailers on the register ; twenty-nine visits were made and no defect was found. Six visits were also made to cowsheds.

Meat and Other Foods

There are 33 licensed slaughtermen in the district.

All slaughtering for the area is done at the Middlesbrough Abbatoir under the regional scheme of the Ministry of Food. Local food inspection, however, entailed 39 visits and resulted in the following foods being condemned :—

FOOD	WEIGHT	
	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>ozs.</i>
Beef	30	0
Pork	21	2
22 cans C.C. Beef	90	0
3 cans Cooked Ham	36	0
7 cans Luncheon Meat	16	4
1 can Pork	3	3
4 cans Jellied Veal	20	0
1 can Crab Meat	0	7
Bacon	7	12
Cod Fillets	14	0
TOTAL	238	12

All the food material was surrendered voluntarily by the tradesmen concerned.

Bakehouses

There are 5 bakehouses on the register, all of which are considered non-domestic in type ; 10 visits were made.

Fish and Chip Shops

Twenty-six visits were paid to fried fish and chip shops, of which there are 21 on the register. Defects were remedied in 2 cases. Water supply, hot water apparatus and separate sanitary accommodation were provided at one premises.

Ice Cream Shops

The 27 registered retailers of ice cream received 31 visits. There is no manufacturer in the district.

Public Houses

Twenty-one inspections were made of the 21 public houses.

Summary supplied by the Sanitary Inspector to the Medical Officer of Health, in pursuance of Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

TABLE 19

Sanitary Inspector's Summary for the Year ended 31st December, 1951

1. Housing Repair Works done during the year

Roofs renewed or repaired	.... 109	Water closets provided	.... 3
Chimneys rebuilt or repaired	3	Water closets repaired	.... 6
Walls rebuilt or repaired	.... 38	Bathrooms provided	.... 5
Walls pointed or rendered	.... 37	Closet pans renewed	.... 191
Wall dampness remedied	.... 73	Pan closets repaired	.... 32
Eaves gutters renewed	.... 37	Pan closets converted to water closets	127
Rain-water pipes renewed	.... 21	Dust bins renewed	.... 37
Connections to sewers	.... 99	Dust bins provided	.... 133
Drains tested (number)	.... 142	Wash-houses repaired	.... 7
Drains tested (length, yards)	407	Wash-houses provided	.... 9
Drains renewed	.... 5	Washboilers renewed or repaired	.... 29
Extra drains provided	.... 35	Coalhouses provided or repaired	.... 16
Choked drains cleared	.... 21	Ceilings renewed or repaired	.... 77
New gullies	.... 15	Wall plaster renewed or repaired	.... 127
New chambers	.... 17	Floors renewed or repaired	.... 71
New intercepting traps	.... 2	Windows renewed or repaired	.... 83
Waste pipes renewed or repaired	18	Windows re-corded	.... 30
Yards paved	.... 47	Ranges and ovens renewed or repaired	60
Yard paving renewed or repaired	10	Fireplaces renewed or repaired	.... 2
Sinks renewed or provided	.... 49	Doors renewed or repaired	.... 105
Sculleries provided	.... 4	Pantries or food stores provided or repaired	24
Water supply installed in houses	24	Handrails provided or renewed	.... 5
Water pipes renewed or repaired	26	Stairs renewed or repaired	.... 15

2. Visits, Notices, etc.

Total visits made during the year	....	....	....	....	2004
Complaints received and investigated		....	....	....	297
(a) Nuisances					
Houses inspected	....	....	820		
Number of inspections	....	....	1221		
Nuisances found	....	....	383		
Nuisances in hand	....	....	150		
			<hr/>		
Total needing abatement	....	....	533		
Number abated	....	....	350		
			<hr/>		
Outstanding	....	....	183		
			<hr/>		
(b) Housing—					
Houses inspected	....	218	Representations	....	0
Number of inspections		310	Closing Orders made	....	0
Houses unfit	....	0	Closing Orders determined		0
Houses with defects		0	Demolition Orders made		0
Houses made fit informally		92	Houses demolished	....	2
Houses made fit formally		30			
(c) Premises visited, etc.—					
Water supply	....	40	Churches	....	2
Drainage	....	139	Closet Conversions	....	254
Stables and Piggeries		2	Overcrowding	....	0
Fish and Chip Shops		26	Verminous Premises	....	0
Moveable Dwellings		2	Infectious Diseases	....	16
Factories, mechanical		39	Disinfections	....	11
Factories, non-mechanical		35	Slaughterhouses	....	17
Building Sites	....	2	Shops & Stalls (Food Inspection)		39
Workplaces	....	11	Butchers	....	41
Bakehouses	....	10	Fishmongers	....	5
Cinemas	....	8	Grocers	....	16
Refuse Collection	....	103	Fruiterers	....	6
Refuse Disposal	....	215	Cowsheds	....	6
Rodent Control	....	83	Dairies	....	29
Schools	....	6	Ice Cream Shops	....	31
Shops	....	86	Restaurants	....	4
Public Houses	....	21	Miscellaneous	....	14
(d) Notices served—					
Informal Housing Acts		0	Statutory Housing Acts		40
Informal Public Health Acts		383	Statutory Public Health Acts		3
(e) Notices complied with—					
Informal Housing Acts		92	Statutory Housing Acts		30
Informal Public Health Acts		347	Statutory Public Health Acts		3

J. J. PATTISON,

M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., Sanitary Inspector.

APPENDIX A

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee,
Skelton & Brotton Urban District Council*

19th February, 1952.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

WATER SUPPLIES

When some three months ago you requested me to report on the water supplies in the District I was under the impression that the present unsatisfactory position would be remedied to a very considerable extent by the completion of the Scaling Reservoir at the end of five or six years. Work has not begun at Scaling and at the present moment the question of postponing the Scheme is under consideration pending the review of the financial state of the nation.

The impact of this grave news upon each of my Districts particularly concerned, namely, Skelton and Brotton and Loftus, differs for each District. In the case of the Urban District of Skelton and Brotton failure to start the Scaling Scheme means a further perpetuation of water shortage throughout the District particularly in the higher parts (a misfortune shared by Loftus). In my Annual Report for 1950 on pages 14 to 16 I have given particulars of the serious position arising from this shortage of water that in my opinion prevents major conversion schemes being carried out to abolish those noxious contraptions, the pail closets, of which there are still nigh on 2,000 in the District. For I am one of those people who believe you cannot get a quart out of a pint pot and if there has been a shortage of water in the District for the last thirty or forty years that shortage is going to get worse the more conversions that are carried out and the more houses that are built. Yet major conversion schemes are essential and more houses must be built to remedy the unsatisfactory housing position. It is in connection with conversion schemes and rehousing that Skelton and Brotton is going to be particularly hard hit by a postponement of Scaling.

In addition there are certain areas where the water supply is not subjected to current methods of purification. These methods are :—

1. Storage.
2. Effective filtration.
3. Effective chlorination as a final safeguard before delivery to the consumer.

For instance, there is the Charltons ; this supply cannot be regarded as of satisfactory purity. There is your own Moorsholm Supply. I personally have a high regard for this water. It gushes out from a heather-covered howe and the chances of its pollution by a wandering hiker or camper suffering from, or carrying germs of typhoid fever, would appear remote. Nevertheless, it does not comply with modern standards of purification. I am aware that to many such criticism will appear fantastic when there are farms, most of them milk producers, who rely for their supplies upon polluted wells and unprotected water courses flowing off the land and often under the highway. These farms will not be directly benefited by the Scaling Scheme, but if more water comes into the District there will be more water available generally so better supplies may be possible eventually for these single dwellings.

I do not wish to stress what is obvious to all who inhabit the District, or to repeat what I and others have written during the last thirty years or more, but the health and and social welfare of the District depends upon the Scaling Scheme being implemented without delay.

Your obedient servant,

W. H. BUTCHER,
Medical Officer of Health..

